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A

CANDID APPEAL  
TO THE  
PUBLIC,

Concerning the CASE of the  
Late Miss *Mary Blandy*:

WHEREIN,

All the ridiculous and false Assertions contained in a Pamphlet, entitled, *Miss Mary Blandy's Own Account of the Affair between Her and Mr. CRANSTOUN, &c.* are exploded,

AND

The Whole of that Mysterious Affair set in a True Light.

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By a GENTLEMAN of OXFORD.

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L O N D O N :

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and Sold at the Pamphlet-Shops. 1752.

( Price Six-Pence. )

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*REAT is Truth and will prevail*, says an eminent Philosopher ; for whatever Disguise Falshood may put on, for sinister or selfish Views, this generous Principle will at length force its Way though all the Mists and Clouds with which it is envelop'd, and shine in its own native Lustre. How applicable this Observation is to the Case of Miss *Blandy*, as written by herself, and published at her dying Request, shall be the Business of this small Pamphlet. We don't mean hereby to load her Memory with any unjust Calumny, or to rake into the Ashes of the Dead; no, may she rest in Peace, and her



Soul be for ever happy ! But as there are many Things in the Account which she gives of the Affair between her and Mr. *Cranstoun*, either not truly stated, or unfairly related, it seems necessary, for the Sake of Truth, and in Justice to the Living, as well as to the Dead, to unveil those specious Pretences to Integrity, with which she has pretty artfully disguised the most interesting Parts of her Case.

We shall begin our Remarks on the Account she gives of the Commencement of the Amour between her and Mr. *Cranstoun*; by which it appears, that she herself gave the first Opening to an Attack from this artful Pretender; for such was her Confidence in his Honour and Integrity (of which I don't find she had any other Proofs than his own bare Word) that she acquainted him with 'an advantageous Match that had been made to her, but 'was afraid the Gentleman was not formed to make her happy.'

*Cranstoun* immediately turns this into an Argument to recommend himself to her kind Regard; and very naturally asks her, 'Whether she did not prefer mutual Love to the Grandeur of Life?' And her Answer, (still more unguarded than her Declaration) 'that she preferred the Man 'she lov'd and esteem'd before all others,' gave him a fair Opportunity to insinuate himself



himself more effectually into her Esteem, and embolden'd him, as she confesses, to make an Offer of his Love.

He introduced his Proposal by informing her, that he had a very intricate Affair then depending in *Scotland*, and this was no less than a Charge of being married to another Woman, the Validity of which was to be tried in a Court of Judicature; and so confident was he of the Share he already had in her Affections, that he very *modestly* ask'd her, 'if she lov'd him well enough to stay till this Affair was decided?' Her *Condescension* in the Reply is as remakable as the Captain's *Modesty* in the Question. 'If my Papa and Mama would approve of my staying for you, I readily consent thereto.' What! marry a Man, who by his own Confession, lay under the Imputation of having a Wife and Children in another Country, from whom he acknowledged that he could not be divorc'd but by a formal Process at Law, the Issue of which he could not foresee, and which at best was but doubtful, since the Laws of *Scotland* make Cohabitation effectual to all the Intents and Purposes of Marriage. Was there ever an Instance of such a Courtship before? Did a Lover ever recommend himself to the Affections of a Lady by acquainting her with the scandalous Commerce he held with any of her Sex? Did  
ever

ever Lady encourage the Addressees of a Lover in such Circumstances?

But to set this Affair in a more impartial Light than she is willing it should be seen in, it is necessary to refer the Reader to the Account of her Life published by *R. Walker*, where we find a very natural and probable Account given of this Matter. There it's asserted, that the first Notice Mr. *Blandy* had of *Cranstoun's* Marriage in *Scotland*, was given him by Lord *Mark Ker*, who advised him to take Care of his Daughter, and preserve her from Ruin; and that accordingly he appriz'd her of it, and then Mr. *Cranstoun*. Now if this Account be true, her's cannot be so; and it must be own'd, this seems to have the Face of Probability.

Mr. *Cranstoun's* having thus secured his Interest in the Daughter, makes his next Application to the Mother, who seems no less infatuated than her love-sick Child. For when the Captain averr'd upon his Soul that he never was married, 'Very well said she, I will take your Word for that.' What! take his Word for that, which if not true, must necessarily be her Daughter's utter and irretrievable Ruin and Destruction; surely it would much better have become her Prudence to have suspended her Assent till Matters should be cleared up to mutual Satisfaction. But  
such

such was her unlimited Confidence in the Words of a roving Officer, who might for ought she knew to the contrary, have a Mistress or a Wife at every Town he had been quarter'd at, seems a little improbable, but if true, must be no small Reflection on her Mother's Understanding.

The next Particular we shall take Notice of is, in that Part of her Account which relates to her Mother's Sickness, and the wonderful Affection she express'd for Mr. *Cranstoun*, which is described in such fulsome and amorous Terms, that one would think the old Woman was as much in Love with the Captain, as her Daughter. For, 'no sooner did he come to her Bedside, but she rais'd herself up, took him round the Neck, and kiss'd him most affectionately.' At the same Time she said, 'My dear *Cranstoun*, I am glad you are come; I now shall grow well again.' One would think the Captain carried some strange *invisible* Charms about him, that could so bewitch the Hearts of both old and young; for as to any *external* Perfections or Excellencies in his Person, I never heard that the acuteſt Eye could discern the least Symptom, or the most distant Reſemblance of a Beauty about him; on the contrary, that he was thought to be one of the moſt diſagreeable Men living.

But



But farther : When Miss and her Mother came to *London* for Advice about some Indisposition the old Lady labour'd under, they lodged with Mr. *Stevens* her Brother, where Mr. *Cranstoun* came to visit them, and who it seems did not entertain the same good Opinion of the Captain, as his Sister did ; and therefore, upon her desiring that he might be ask'd to dine with them, he refused it. Upon which she came crying to Mr. *Cranstoun*, to tell him of the Affront that had been done him ; but to comfort him, added, ' Came to me as often as you can in my ' own Apartment ; in a Morning I am al- ' ways alone.' Now, who can help re- marking, that the Daughter has put a very odd kind of Compliment into her Mother's Mouth, and liable to a very censorious Construction ; and had not her Mother the Character of a virtuous Woman, it would not be easy to vindicate the Innocence of her Intention in such a kind Invitation.

The next Thing observable is, a very art- ful Piece of Cunning in the Captain to get Possession of his Mistress without waiting the Event of the Law-Suit in *Scotland*, and that was, to marry her privately. Miss, however, was not so blinded, with Love as to come into his Measures, which she convinc'd him must be attended with

with the worst Consequences ; yet neither did she resent this Proposal in a Manner that became one truly sensible of the injurious Affront done to her Honour and Virtue, nor even to reproach him with the Baseness of his Heart which was capable of meditating a Design so evidently contrary to her Peace and Happiness.

Here we cannot help taking Notice of some Passages, which, in our Opinion, cast severe Reflections on the Memory both of her Father and Mother. As to the first, he is all along represented as a Man of a hasty, passionate, uneven Temper ; sometimes hugging *Cranstoun* in his Arms, and at other Times treating him with a Boorish Rudeness ; now infinitely pleased with his Daughter's Choice of the Captain for her Husband, and presently using her in the most cruel Manner for encouraging his Addresses. Again, she tells us in Effect that her Father was so parsimonious, that he did not allow his Wife Money sufficient to buy Provisions for the House, but suffered her to run up a Debt of Thirty Pounds, which she borrowed of Mr. *Cranstoun* to pay ; which either shews the Avarice of her Father, or ill Conduct, or Want of Prudence in her Mother, as if she was not capable of managing the Affairs of the Family. Thus she exposes the Character of her Father, Mother, and even

her own, to the severest Censures ; and all for what ? Why, to justify a lawless Passion for a wicked Man, who not only abused the Friendship and Kindness of her too credulous Parents to him, but manifestly designed to decoy her by his Flatteries and specious Pretences to her Ruin.

Miss tells us, (p. 17. of her Account) that both she and her Father received Letters from Miss *Murray*, signed *N. Cranstoun*, to inform them, that she was his lawful Wife ; and that the Decree of the Court of *Scotland*, in her Favour, was sent in those Letters. This one would imagine, was enough to disperse those Mists from her Eyes, with which *Cranstoun's* fallacious Arguments had beclouded them, and to convince her, that notwithstanding his fair Pretences, his Oaths and Protestations, he was no better than an Impostor, who, taking Advantage of her free and open Behaviour, had plotted the Ruin of her Virtue and Happiness for ever. Such Reflections as these she might naturally have made upon this remarkable Occurrence. Instead of which, she consults her Mother how to behave on this critical Occasion. Her Mother advises her to write to him, and to beg him, upon his Honour, to let her know the Truth. But could she imagine, that he, who had deceived her and her Daughter already, would not carry on the Deceit ;



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Deceit ; and that as he had hitherto led 'em both blindfold, that he would not now do all in his Power to keep 'em in the Dark ? Had it not been a much better Way to have wrote to some Gentleman of Worth and Probity in that Country, requesting him to examine the Court Records, and to send her an authenticated Copy of the Proceedings in this Affair ? By this Means she would have soon come to the Knowledge of the real Truth, if she had been in Earnest in her Enquiry ; instead of which, she makes her Application to him only, whose Interest it was to deceive her.

But if we look into the Account published by *R. Walker*, (and he seems to have good Authority for what he advances) we shall find this Transaction related in a quite different Manner. *Cranstoun*, among the rest of his wicked Schemes to gain his Ends on this Lady, thought of this. He writes a Letter to his Wife, intimating, that it would be of infinite Service to him, with respect to his Promotion in the Army, if she would, under her own Hand, deny herself to be his Wife. She, knowing his Baseness, was very unwilling to comply with his Request ; but after much Sollicitation she did ; and this Letter of Denial he shews to Mr. *Blandy*, his Wife and Daughter, to convince them of the

Uprightness of his Intentions, but in the End it had a very different Effect from what he intended ; as may be seen at large in the said Account, p. 5.

Many little trifling Things she relates in the Course of her Narrative, which we did not think worth our Notice ; yet, in every Page and Paragraph we may observe her unalterable Attachment to the Captain's Person, notwithstanding the many disadvantageous Circumstances under which he appear'd. And indeed it required no common Skill to parry the various Thrusts that he might expect would be made at him on his Attempt upon this Lady ; and in Truth his Invention was seldom at a Loss when he had an Excuse to make, or a Favour to entreat. Yet once he was grievously put to his Trumps, and had much ado to bring himself off with any tolerable Degree of Honour. This was, when she found a Letter in his Trunk, and on reading it, discovered, that he kept a Mistress. He had told her, not above a Day or two before, that he had a Bastard upon his Hands to keep ; but this last Story was too gross to acquaint her with ; and when she told him of it, he was so thunderstruck, that he lost his Speech, and was ready to faint ; yet he had Address enough to pacify her Wrath, even for this notorious Breach of his Fidelity.

delity. Would not any one think that this young Lady, who, on all other Occasions, was remarkably distinguish'd for her Wit and fine Sense, was under the miserable Infatuation of some infernal Agents, that could, with her Eyes open, be thus deluded to her own Destruction? Nay, after all this, when he pretended he must pawn his Watch for Money to carry him into *Scotland*, she, rather than he should be destitute of so fashionable an Ornament, made him a Present of her own Watch, only reserving to herself his Picture which hung to it, which she resolv'd to keep as sacred as the Relict of a Saint, and as a precious Memorandum of his sweet Person.

In p. 5. of Miss *Blandy's* Account we have a very circumstantial Description of the more than motherly Fondness which old Mrs. *Blandy* expressed for *Cranstoun*, her proposed Son-in-Law. The old Lady being on a Visit to one Mrs. *Pocock*, of *Turville-Court*, was seized with a violent Disorder, which oblig'd her to continue there some Time. But in the Height of her Illness, when she had any Intervals of Sense, who was the Person then the chief Object of her Concern? Was it her Husband? No. Her Daughter? No. Any eminent Physician whose Skill and Judgment she could confide in? No. Who then?



then? Why, her constant Cry was, *Let Cranstoun be sent for.* Cranstoun was then at *Southampton* with his Regiment; but on his receiving a Summons from Miss to come away directly on this Emergency, he obey'd, and was soon with her, and immediately waited on the sick Lady, who was so transported at the Sight of him, ' that she immediately raised herself up in ' her Bed, took him about the Neck, and ' kissed him in the most affectionate ' Manner,' adding these Words to this fond Action, *My dear Cranstoun, I am glad you are come, I now shall grow well soon;* \* Nay, she carried her Fondness to such an extravagant Pitch, that *Cranstoun* only must be her Nurse, and administer every Thing that was prescribed for her. And of such wonderful Efficacy was his Care and Attendance upon his Patient, that, tho' before he came, she was supposed to be in the utmost Danger, yet the very next Day after his Arrival, she got up, and he coming into her Room, she said, *This I owe to you, my dear Cranstoun; your coming has given me new Health and fresh Spirits: I was fearful lest I should die, and*  
you

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\* Which though mentioned before, was necessary to be repeated here, in order to set this Transaction in its full Light.

*you not be here to comfort that poor Girl;  
How like Death she looks!*

Now, I would fain know, for what good End or Purpose Miss could be desirous that the World should be acquainted with this extravagant, and, I may add, indecent Fondness of her Mother for *Cranston*? Was it to possess the Publick with an Opinion, that as there was such a strong and mutual Affection between her Mother and Lover, that there could not be the least Grounds to suspect that either he or she could have any Hand in the Death of so affectionate a Mother, who died some Time afterwards, as did likewise Mrs. *Pocock*, much about the same Time, of a very strange Disorder, not much unlike that which was the Occasion of Mr. *Blandy's* Death? If she had not some such Design in View, how was it consistent with that reverential Regard which a Daughter ought to have for the Memory of a tender Mother, to expose her Weakness in so indecent and even scandalous a Manner as she has done? But if this was really the Case, and these two Lovers were actually confederated in the Death of the Mother, as well as afterwards in the Death of the Father, to make a clear Stage for the full Enjoyment of a large Fortune upon the Demise of the old People, then Miss's Conduct is easily accounted for, and it was  
the

the wisest Method she could take, in order to clear her Character from that Crime, with which she was but too sensible she was charged. For, though she was not directly accused with it at her Trial, yet she expected to hear the Council declare, That they had as strong Proofs to convict her of the poisoning her Mother and Mrs. *Pocock*, as they had to prove her Guilty of the Death of her Father.

But let us proceed to some other Particulars. While Miss and her Mother were in *London*, the old Lady was greatly distress'd for Money, having contracted a considerable Debt, unknown to her Husband, which she knew not how to pay. Mr. *Cranstoun*, in his next Visit, finds Miss all in Tears, and on enquiring the Reason, is told, that her Mother was under the greatest Perplexity on Account of the said Debt. *Cranstoun*, pretending to be greatly affected for their Trouble, generously offer'd to raise the Money, and was as good as his Word, and brought the Sum wanted, which was 40*l*. and threw it into the old Lady's Lap, who was so affected with this so uncommon Instance of his Generosity, that for a while she stood speechless, and could only squeeze his Hand, and burst into Tears. But to relieve her Distress, he kissed her, and said, 'Remember 'tis a Son, and therefore don't  
' make



‘ make yourself uneasy ; you can’t lie  
 ‘ under any Obligation to me.’ But  
 Miss going to express her own Gratitude  
 for the Favour, was prevented by his  
 kissing her too, and saying, ‘ That was all  
 ‘ he desired in Return.’

Upon reading this Case, as she herself  
 has thus stated it, such Questions as these  
 will naturally arise. As how, where, and  
 for what this Debt was contracted ?  
 Whether the Captain had any View or  
 Prospect of being ever repaid it ; or, indeed,  
 whether he ever had his Money again ?  
 or what other Considerations induced him  
 to strain his Credit (for it can hardly be  
 suppos’d that he had such a Sum by him  
 of his own) merely to oblige this good old  
 Lady ?

As to the first of these Questions, how,  
 where, and for what this Debt was con-  
 tracted, this Answer may be given. The  
 Debt it seems consisted of two Parts ; that  
 is, ten Pounds of it was contracted in  
*London*, and thirty Pounds of it at *Henley*.  
 Now it is highly improbable, that Mr.  
*Blandy* should permit his Wife and Daugh-  
 ter to reside in *London* without a sufficient  
 Allowance to bear all their reasonable Ex-  
 pences. I think it is therefore very reason-  
 able to suppose (nor is it an idle Supposition)  
 that these Ladies, in Company with their  
 dear Friend and Familiar Mr. *Cranstoun*,  
 C were

were willing to partake of all the fashionable Diversions of the Town, during their Stay in it. If this was really the Case, and we have Room enough to imagine it was, since Miss has not informed us by what other Means it was done, one may easily judge that a much larger Sum than ten Pounds might be soon spent in this Way. Then as to the thirty Pounds, the other Part of the Debt, this was contracted at *Henley*; Miss herself tells us, *it was for Fowls, Butter, Eggs, Wine, and other Provisions, chiefly on Account of Entertainments.* But Miss has concealed that Part of the Story which would set this Matter in a true Light, that is, when, and on what Occasions these Entertainments were made. The Truth is, that these Junkettings and Entertainments were made only for the Pleasure and Accommodation of Mr. *Cranstoun*, when Mr. *Blandy* was in *London*, and detained there upon Business. So that Miss had much better have concealed this Part of the Story, which exposes her Mother to very severe Censures, for want of Oeconomy in her Family; nor is a less Reflection on her own Character for living in such a licentious Manner with a Man of such abandon'd Principles as *Cranstoun* was known to be.

As to the next Question, whether the Captain had any View or Prospect in advancing



vancing this Money, it may be answered, that he certainly had ; for the principal, and indeed, the only End he proposed by marrying the Lady was, to get himself possessed of a large Sum of Money ; by which he could easily reimburse himself whatever Sums he might advance to gratify and please the Mother and Daughter.

Another Question is, whether the Captain ever had his Money again ? To this Miss herself furnishes us with an Answer. *Cranstoun*, after the Death of his kind Patroness and Advocate, Mrs. *Blandy*, perceiving his Reception was not so hearty with Mr. *Blandy* as heretofore, began to doubt the Issue. This puts him upon contriving Schemes for recovering the Money he had lent the old Lady in her Distress. Upon this, being then in *London*, and being invited by Miss into the Country, he writes her a Letter, full of heavy Complaints, that he was not able to stir out of Doors for Fear of the Bailiffs, his Fortune in *Scotland* being seized for the Maintenance of his Wife (Miss *Murray*, as he call'd her) and her Child ; and that the Debt which occasioned his Perplexity, was near fifteen Guineas. Miss, without reflecting, that the Ground of his Necessity, namely, the Seizing of his Estate for the Maintenance of his Wife, ought to have



been a strong Argument against her sending him any Relief, very readily remits him fifteen Guineas, Part of forty Pounds she had borrowed of Mrs. *Mounteney*, to pay off Part of her Mother's Debt. Upon this, he came to *Henley*, where he had not been long, but all on a sudden he puts on a gloomy and thoughtful Air; which Miss soon observing, demands the Reason. He shews her a dunning Lettter he had just receiv'd from one of his Creditors in *London*, for a Debt of 15*l*. Miss immediately gave him the Money, being another Part of the 40*l*. she had borrowed of Mrs. *Mounteney*; so that now he had received 30 of the 40*l*. he had advanced as before-mentioned. After this, she made him a Present of her Watch, which no Doubt made up the Deficiency, and paid him in full for all the Money he had advanced.

Upon the whole then it is plain, that the Captain's Generosity on this Occasion, was merely to ingratiate himself with the old Lady, in order to facilitate his Design on the Daughter.

The next Passage in Miss's Narrative, which we shall take Notice of, is that which gives a very minute Account of the extraordinary Noises and Musick heard in the Night, in and about the House, for a considerable Time together. But here it must

must be observ'd, that previous to the Account of these Tales, Miss tells us, that before her Mother died, after some Discourse about the Immortality of the Soul, they agreed, that whoever died first, should appear to the other, if permitted so to do. Her Mother had been dead upwards of a Year, and Miss had heard no News of her. But then Mr. *Cranstoun* coming into the Country, and having heard Miss talk of this Conversation with her Mother, he seem'd uneasy, looking, as she thought, with an unusual Paleness. On her asking the Meaning of it, he told her he had heard Musick in the Night, for two Hours together, and thought it came from the Middle of the Stairs. Miss laugh'd at him, and ask'd him, how he could be so whimsical? He said, it was no Whim, for he really heard it. The next Night Miss heard Musick, and thought it seem'd to be in the Yard. After that, one of the Maids heard it; and then all three of them heard it together. This was a pretty Scheme enough of *Cranstoun's*, to inculcate Superstitious Notions into his Mistress, in order the better to carry on his grand Design. But it will be ask'd, could these People be all deceiv'd? could not their Ears distinguish Sounds? They were awake, and in their Senses, and therefore it was impossible they could be imposed upon in  
so

so plain a Matter. All this I grant, and will allow farther, that they did hear Musick, but I cannot grant that it came from aerial and spiritual Performers. The Inhabitants of the other World, are differently employed than to amuse or divert us poor Earth-born Mortals. Let me rather suppose, that the Captain had procured a Musician for this Purpose, and had directed him so place himself so as not to be seen from the Window under which he was ordered to play. And this seems pretty plain from what Miss herself says, that the Musick she heard, seemed to be in the Yard. Now if she was so weak as to believe this Part of the Story, the Transition was easy to her fancying she heard other strange Noises in the House, which might be occasioned by the running about of Rats, &c.

Upon the whole therefore it seems evident to me, that this was all an Invention and a Trick of *Cranstoun's*, contrived for the better managing and carrying his wicked Purposes into Execution. Of the same Kind was his pretending to have consulted a *Scotch Witch*, about the Love-Powders, and that her Skill in Magic was so great, that she had described both Miss and her Father in a most surprising Manner, tho' she had never seen them. *Cranstoun* was not now to learn, that Women are naturally



rally superstitious and credulous with Respect to supernatural Operations ; and therefore he played this Engine upon Miss the more vigorously ; being persuaded, that if he could but delude her Understanding to entertain this Opinion, his Work was done, and he should soon make her the Instrument of obtaining his wicked Ends : And indeed it was not long before he persuaded her into a Belief, that those Powders would make her Father love him. She gave them to her Father according to his Directions, and behold the Consequence !

Miss, in the Conclusion of her Narrative tells us, that her Servants being apprized of the bad Opinion she entertained of them, were resolved to be revenged on her, if ever it should be in their Power. That as to her Mother's Maid, *Susanna Gunnel*, she would have turned her away, had it not been for some Money that was due to her. But Miss had been more ingenuous in her Confession, if she had acknowledged, that the Money due to *Susan* was not for Wages, but Money that she herself had borrowed of her, to the Amount of Fourscore Pounds to support *Cranstoun* in his Extravagancies or Distresses, which indeed it was not now in her Power to pay her ; and so poor *Susan* must lose all the Fruits of a long Servitude, unless Mr. Blandy's

*Blandy's* surviving Relations, in Compassion to her unmerited Hardships, make up her Loss by their Generosity and Benevolence.

I perceive at the Conclusion of the Narrative, that it has the Sanction of two Clergymen, Members of the University of *Oxford*; and if I am rightly informed, the far greatest Part of it was wrote by a reverend Divine from Miss *Blandy's* Mouth. If so, I would gladly learn from these worthy Gentlemen, the Reasons that induced them to give their Sanction to, or Approbation of so many incredible Stories, Improbabilities, and palpable Falsities as must naturally occur to every Man of common Understanding that peruses her Account. Do not they plainly see that Miss has abused both her Father and Mother from the Beginning of her Pamphlet to the End of it? Do not they see that her whole Design in writing it is to justify her lawless Passion for a Man of the most abandoned Principles? Have they Faith enough to believe her Tale of Apparitions and aerial Musick? If not, why is it sent into the World with the Solemnity of their Sanction? If they would not seem to patronize these Absurdities, they should in the first Place, have endeavoured to convince her of her Errors; and if, notwithstanding, she obstinately persisted in them, they should have thought it another Part of their

their Duty, not to have contributed their Assistance to the spreading of them in the World. But since they have done this, they will find themselves rewarded only with the publick Laugh and Ridicule.

Before we conclude, we shall only make some few Remarks on her Behaviour a little before her Execution. It's very true, that in the general she behaved with great Decency and Seriousness, and seemed perfectly resigned to her unhappy Fate; yet there is much Room to doubt whether she was quite sincere in her most solemn Professions of her Innocence, and that she died in perfect Charity with all the World. For it is evident, she retain'd a secret Resentment against those she call'd her Enemies, even to the last, as appears from several unguarded Expressions, which she let fall, a Day or 'two before her Execution, nay even the same Morning, as may be seen in her Life; and in short, her own Narrative discovers a Rancour in her Heart against several of the Witnesses, and even of the Jury themselves. But can a Man of Sense believe her sincere, when she gave an Account to the Rev. Clergyman who attended her, of her hearing Musick in the Night, by invisible Performers? And yet this she affirmed in the Morning of her Execution, that she had heard it the preceding Night more melodious than



ever. How shall we reconcile this Fiction, Whim, or Fancy, (call it what you will) to that excellent Sense and Understanding she was universally reported to be Mistress of? If so, how shall we acquit her of Prevarication, or some mental Reservation, in order to impose upon the Credulity of the Spectators? And if this was really the Case, (as there seems to be too much Ground to suppose, tho' I am willing to hope better Things) what Judgment can we form of the following solemn Declaration, which she sign'd with her own Hand, and deliver'd immediately after having receiv'd the Lord's Supper? Can we say she was any better than an Infidel? — But let the Reader make his own Reflections.

**I** *Mary Blandy*, do declare, that I die in a full Persuasion of the Truth and Excellency of the Christian Religion, and a sincere, though unworthy Member of the Church of *England*. I do likewise hope for a Pardon and Remission of my Sins, by the Mercy of God, through the Merits and Mediation of Jesus Christ, my most blessed Lord and Saviour. I do also farther declare, that I did not know, or believe, that the Powder, to which the Death of my dear Father has been ascribed, had any noxious or poisonous Quality lodged in it; and that I had no Intention to hurt, and  
much

much less to destroy him, by giving him that Powder : All this is true, as I hope for eternal Salvation, and Mercy from Almighty God, in whose most awful and immediate Presence I must soon appear. I die in perfect Peace and Charity with all Mankind, and do from the Bottom of my Soul forgive all my Enemies, and particularly those who have in any Manner contributed to, or been instrumental in bringing me to the ignominious Death I am soon to suffer. This is my last Declaration, as to the Points therein contained, and I do most earnestly desire, that it may be published after my Decease. Witness my Hand,

MARY BLANDY.

I was going on to make some farther Remarks on Miss's Account of this Affair, but on perusing that published by Mr. *Walker*, find myself agreeably prevented. For there the Writer has made the most judicious Observations upon every Part of her Conduct, and with great Accuracy and Impartiality has set every Fact in the truest Light.

F I N I S.

which led to destroy him, by giving him  
 that Powder: All this is true, as I hope  
 for eternal Salvation, and Mercy from All-  
 mighty God, is whole proof, and  
 immediate Presence I must soon appear  
 I die in perfect Peace and Charity with all  
 Mankind, and do for the Honour of my  
 God forgive all my Enemies, and par-  
 ticularly those who have in any Manner  
 contributed to, or been instrumental in  
 bringing me to the ignominious Death I  
 am soon to suffer. This is my last Decree  
 ration, as to the others therein contained,  
 and I do most earnestly desire that it may  
 be published to the World. Witness  
 my Hand

PH

**MUSEVM**  
**BRITANNICVM**

I was going on to make some further  
 Remarks on this Account of this Affair,  
 but on perusing that published by Mr.  
 Waller, and myself agreeably prevented.  
 For there the Writer has made the most  
 judicious Observations upon every Part of  
 her Conduct, and with great Accuracy and  
 Impartiality has set every Fact in the most  
 Light.

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